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# ACHiEVER



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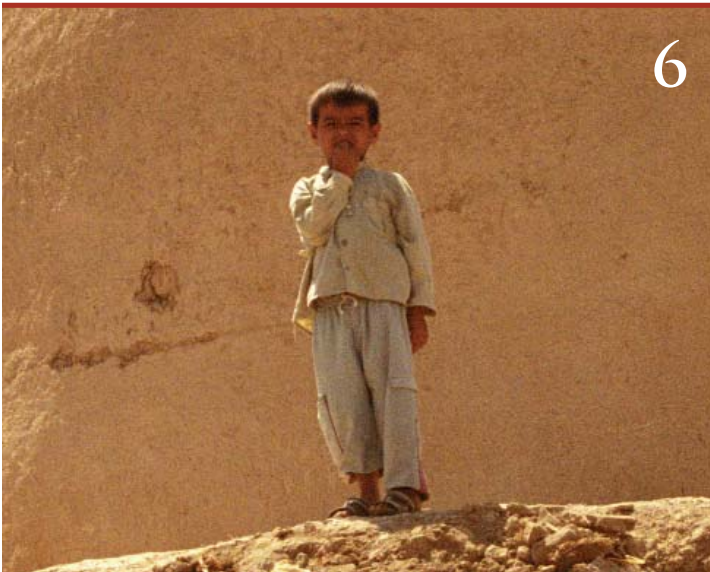
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## Dear Friends of UMUC:



UMUC is a unique institution. Many of you know that from first-hand experience. Our mission, though simple, is broad—to serve the educational needs of nontraditional students. Whether it be a firefighter in the Pacific Northwest, a military servicemember stationed overseas, or a single parent living only minutes from our headquarters in Adelphi, Maryland, our goal is the same—to offer the edu-

cational resources these students need to provide for their families, to fulfill their duties, to realize their dreams.

In the process, UMUC has grown into a worldwide family and an international network of students, alumni, faculty, staff, donors, and friends who each play a role, sometimes small but always vital, in making UMUC what it is today.

In this issue of the *Achiever*, we want you to meet some of those “family members”—a would-be cartoonist and a world-famous neurosurgeon, an NFL linebacker and a Marine Corps major, an Emmy-winning producer, a Washington-area business leader, and others. We think you’ll be proud, as we are, to call them a part of UMUC. More important, we want you to consider your own role at this remarkable university.

We invite you to participate in the Alumni Association. Visit our art galleries. Further your education. Serve as a tutor or mentor. Donate to our annual fund. Tell us how we can better serve your needs. The possibilities are endless and the rewards are lasting.

In the past five years, UMUC’s stateside enrollments have grown by more than 80 percent, and the Maryland Higher Education Commission predicts another 120 percent increase by 2010. In 2004, the university recorded more than 126,000 online enrollments. This success is no accident, but it depends on the support and participation of our “family” worldwide. I invite you to become an active part of that family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gerald Heeger".

Gerald A. Heeger  
President

## ACE Fellow Turns to UMUC to Learn About the Future of Education

By Celeste Ryan



Helen E. Williams is quite certain about her future. One day she plans to serve as the president of a college or university.

"It's not just a goal," said Williams, who currently serves as senior assistant dean of the University of Delaware's College of Arts and Sciences. "Becoming a college president is *the* goal."

With that in mind, and after being nominated by the president of the University of Delaware, Williams applied for and won an American Council on Education (ACE) fellowship for the 2004–2005 school year. After several placement interviews, she was invited to come to UMUC, where she would shadow President Gerald Heeger. She arrived at the university on September 8, 2004, with one objective—to learn as much as possible about leading an institution of higher education.

"I am blessed to be here with one of the most forward-thinking executive teams in higher education," said Williams.

"Reviewing UMUC will give me a major advantage in learning to lead. UMUC has a strong business focus; it's the forerunner in distance education; it has well over 88,000 students and is growing rapidly; it's international, with sites in 29 countries around the world; and it collaborates with community colleges, the military, soldiers, and their families."

Williams especially appreciates UMUC's focus on technology and how it enables the university to meet the needs of non-traditional students. While many schools offer evening classes for adults returning to school, Williams said UMUC also addressed the needs of younger students, graduate-level students, and even retirees seeking higher education.

"The future is technology," she said. "Computers have impacted every area of our world and if people come back to higher education for retooling, we need to be able to offer them the technology information that will prepare them for their future. UMUC equips its students for not just surviving, but thriving in the future."

Since 1965, ACE has been preparing academic administrators like Williams for leadership roles in higher education. Most of the 1,450 educators who have participated in the organization's fellowship program over the years have become deans, presidents, provosts, vice presidents, or CEOs.

"This program sharpens and enhances leadership skills and prepares administrators to address issues of concern to the higher education community," explained Marlene Ross, director of the program at ACE's Washington, D.C., headquarters.

Because of the ACE program, UMUC is helping equip Williams for her future. An office near Heeger's offers her a bird's-eye view of the inner workings of academic administration. Working as his "shadow," she meets with his executive council and cabinet, listening in as they discuss fundraising and development, budget and finances, policy and procedure, human resources, facilities management, and other issues. Her role, she said, is to "observe, listen, and reflect," and later ask questions and discuss with the president what she's observed. Always an avid learner, Williams has also taken on a couple of projects that will further develop her skills and give her experience in managing organizational change, which she deems critical for the success of any higher education administrator in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

"I've already learned so much and gained so much experience," Williams said of her time at UMUC. "It has been worth every moment."

## Orkand Rewards Access and Quality at UMUC with \$2 Million Gift

By Andrea Martino

Citing the quality of UMUC's coursework and ease of access to it, Donald Orkand, chair of the university's Board of Visitors, donated \$2 million to UMUC to fund undergraduate scholarships and establish an endowed chair in the Graduate School of Management and Technology. The gift was the largest ever given to the university by an individual donor.

UMUC President Gerald Heeger called the gift a strong endorsement of the uni-

# NEWS AND UPDATES

versity's efforts to provide a quality education to students everywhere.

"Don [Orkand] exemplifies the aspirations of so many UMUC students," said Heeger. "He is a successful entrepreneur and CEO, an innovator, a community leader, a philanthropist, and a role model. I am deeply grateful to Don for his extraordinary act of generosity and appreciate very much that we can benefit from his board leadership at UMUC as well."

Orkand's gift was announced at the graduate faculty meeting in Adelphi, Maryland, on September 18, 2004.

"[Donors today] don't give to good causes," Orkand said, addressing the faculty. "They give to good results. It is the faculty and leadership at UMUC that make that happen. You are engaged in an important mission that affects this generation and generations to come. Growth will enable UMUC to invest in people, technology, and academic programs. UMUC is at the forefront of the changes in higher education, and through this gift I hope that other donors will recognize these accomplishments and contribute to UMUC as well."

"It is critical that students in financial need, who have exhibited the ability and the desire to succeed, be provided the financial support to complete their degree programs," Orkand continued. "These students will have already achieved success in getting so far in their pursuit of a college degree. But no one ever said you have to do it alone, and UMUC students, most of whom are adults employed full-time in the workforce, require a comprehensive support network of family and friends. I am pleased to be an ancillary part of that network."

Funds from Orkand's gift will establish the undergraduate Orkand Scholars program, providing scholarships to students in financial need who have completed a minimum of 60 credits. Recipients will be selected, starting as early as the summer of 2005, on the basis of academic excellence and potential for further study.

At the graduate level, funds from the gift will establish the Orkand Endowed Chair in Management and Technology. The holder of this chair will be nationally recognized in the fields of management and technology, have a record of working successfully with a variety of constituencies, and will work with fellow graduate faculty in integrating cutting-edge management theories and trends into curricula. A national search for this faculty member will begin in the spring.

"It is important that UMUC graduate faculty benefit from the efforts and mentorship of an endowed chair, particularly when UMUC programs are experiencing such an enrollment surge," said Orkand.

Orkand has served on the UMUC Board of Visitors since 2001. In 2002, he funded scholarships for the first Orkand Fellows, students in UMUC's Doctor of Management program, the first doctoral program of its kind in Maryland and one of only a few such programs nationwide.

## **Benjamin Carson, World-Renowned Neurosurgeon, Addresses UMUC Graduates**

*By Chip Cassano*

Benjamin S. Carson, director of the division of pediatric neurosurgery at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

since 1984, gave the keynote address at UMUC's 2004 commencement ceremony in Maryland on May 15. Carson may be best known for his role in 1987 as the head neurosurgeon on a 70-member medical team that conducted the first successful separation of craniopagus twins—twins joined at the back of the head. Ten years later, he again made headlines when he led a team that separated vertical craniopagus twins—twins joined at the top of the head. He has received more than 24 honorary degrees and dozens of national citations of merit and has authored three best-selling books and more than 90 neurosurgical publications.

But if graduates were concerned that they were in for a dry, scientific lecture, they needn't have worried.

Carson stuck to his own remarkable story, drawing repeated rounds of laughter and applause as he described himself as a young boy—the troubled child of an uneducated mother—who was raised in dire poverty, saw two cousins killed in street violence, and early on was dubbed "Dummy" by his classmates.

"I was just an awful student," Carson said. "I didn't think that I could learn anything so I didn't pay attention in class, and all of my classmates called me 'Dummy.' That was my nickname. . . . Fortunately, I had a mother who felt that you could never give up. She would always say, 'Benjamin, you are much too smart to be bringing home grades like this.' But I would bring them home anyway."

His mother, a deeply religious woman, prayed for wisdom. She hit on the idea of turning off the television set and requiring her children to read two books a week from the public library and submit written book reports.



## Ray Lewis, Baltimore Ravens Linebacker, Graduates

Ray Lewis, all-star linebacker for the Baltimore Ravens, donned a different kind of uniform recently. On May 15, 2004, Lewis marched in UMUC's state-side commencement ceremony, fulfilling a promise he made to his mother years before when he entered the NFL draft before he had completed his college degree at the University of Miami. Lewis enrolled at UMUC in 2001, focusing on management studies, and made the dean's list in spring 2002. His UMUC diploma is just the most recent in a long list of awards and honors that includes being named the NFL Defensive Player of the Year in 2000 and 2001 and Most Valuable Player of Super Bowl XXXV.

"Now what kind of wisdom is that?" Carson asked, to more laughter. "As far as we were concerned, it was child abuse. . . . We didn't know she couldn't read [the reports]. She would put little checkmarks on them, and underline things. . . . And you know, I began to learn. My entire horizon began to change . . . and I realized that I was tired of being called 'Dummy.' I said to myself, 'You have your destiny in your own hands. You can make yourself as valuable as you want to be, simply by picking up a book and reading it.'"

In the space of 18 months, Carson went from the bottom of the class to the top. He assessed his own abilities—his eye-hand coordination, his ability to think in three dimensions, his carefulness, his fascination with dissecting things—and began to dream of a career as a brain surgeon. He followed those dreams to Yale University and ultimately to the University of Michigan School of Medicine.

Through it all, he held true to the lessons taught him by his mother—the importance of working hard, pursuing one's dreams, and having faith in God.

"I believe that God gives everybody special gifts and talents . . .," said Carson. "I don't mean that I couldn't have been a cardiologist, a lawyer, a university professor, or a businessman. . . . But I probably would not have excelled to the same degree, because I wouldn't have been taking advantage of my special gifts and talents.

"That's a very good thing to think about for people who are embarking on new careers, or deciding to change careers. Look at the area in which you're talented, as opposed to just taking the path of least resistance and going where other people expect you to go, and you'll end up asking the question, 'Why are they paying me to

do this? It's something I enjoy, and something that I'm good at.' Believe me, it makes a difference."

## UMUC Receives High Marks for Serving Minorities

*By Andrea Martino*

UMUC is often recognized for its worldwide reach in online education, but the university also receives high marks close to home. According to the 2004 rankings in *Black Issues in Higher Education (BIHE)* magazine, UMUC awarded more master's degrees to African American students overall than only six other U.S. universities in 2002–2003. In Maryland, during the same time period, more minority students earned master's degrees from UMUC than from any other public university in the state.

The rankings are particularly significant since they include degrees granted by historically black colleges and universities, which are generally understood to enroll more minorities than other schools.

Nationwide, UMUC also ranked sixth among traditionally white universities in awarding undergraduate degrees to African American students.

"UMUC has excelled for more than 50 years in serving adult students through distance education," said UMUC Provost Nicholas Allen. "Minority students, like most students today, find part-time study a necessity when balancing education with family and work responsibilities. Minority students' preference for UMUC mirrors our enrollment growth, due largely to our expertise in online delivery of high-quality academic programs that are most needed in today's workplace."



According to Allen, the university has seen particular enrollment increases in business and technology programs. According to *BIHE*, UMUC ranked fourth in the nation—and highest in the northeastern United States—among U.S. universities that awarded graduate degrees to African American students in business, management, marketing, and related fields. The university also ranked ninth nationwide in the number of master's degrees in computer and information services awarded to minority students.

“We were not all that surprised at the *Black Issues in Higher Education* rankings,” said Michael Evanchik, chair, business and executive programs. “*Washington Business Journal's* annual survey again ranked UMUC as having the largest graduate business program in the national capital region.”

According to data from that survey, UMUC has more than 6,000 students enrolled in graduate business programs; the second-largest school in the area—Strayer University, in Washington, D.C.—has fewer than half as many students. And the second-largest business school in Maryland, the University of Maryland, College Park's Robert H. Smith School of Business, has fewer than a third as many students as UMUC.

Evanchik credits the increase in enrollment in UMUC's MBA programs to their focus on being interdisciplinary, integrated, and applied—as well as to the fact that UMUC programs emphasize the interdependence of business and technology.

“Our graduate business programs explore organization and management processes in the context of today's global business environment,” said Evanchik. “Because

of the increasing reliance on information technology in an ever-expanding global marketplace, UMUC professors in all our degree and certificate business programs work diligently to ensure that UMUC offerings are current where business and technology intersect. That's where our students need to be, and that's where their UMUC education should take them.”

## Tech Guru Recommends Cyber-Communities for Today's Wired World

By Greg Rosenthal

Art Fritzson, a vice president at Booz Allen Hamilton and a leader with a track record of recognizing emerging technologies, addressed the fall faculty meeting of UMUC's Graduate School of Management and Technology on September 18, 2004. Fritzson believes that cavemen had a lot in common with today's digital elite—forming communities that allowed them to thrive in an untamed environment—and he urged UMUC's faculty to teach this same skill to their students.

“Historically, people have always formed communities,” said Fritzson, who also serves as a member of the advisory board to UMUC's executive MBA program. “You start as cavemen, but as soon as you have industrialization and cities, people cannot cognitively deal with that number of people, so they always form communities of the right size. It happens naturally; you see it in the formation of neighborhoods within cities.”

Fritzson compares that to life on the Web. “Internet communities are virtual neighborhoods,” he said. “In fact, the Internet

gives you the ability to be a part of many communities.” Most importantly, he added, communities of people with like interests organize information in ways that make sense.

Fritzson sees the Internet's “wildness” as an outgrowth of the minimal cost of creating, disseminating, and accessing online content. For a small initial cost, Internet users can consume a staggering volume of data. Yet a world of free information can lead to information overload and chaos, Fritzson said. In response, forces in a community often intervene to restore order.

Fritzson offered the online auction site eBay as an example. As a global “flea market,” said Fritzson, eBay “brings lots of little vendors to lots of little buyers” with “high information flow in both directions,” leading to a “profitable use of the zero-cost of information.” Trust becomes an issue, however, and eBay responds by allowing buyers and sellers to rate one another, and by making those ratings public. The system works because users take the time to submit ratings, while the ratings, in turn, provide a strong incentive for honest dealings.

Such community citizenship and involvement forms the core of the concept of “netcentricity,” which Fritzson describes as promoting and encouraging communities of interests that will reuse information assets.

Fritzson appealed to UMUC to teach its students how to create such communities, thereby helping them make sense of the vast information in their respective fields.





# The **art in war**

A U.S. Marine's Unique View of Iraq

*By Greg Rosenthal*





**W**hen Major Benjamin Busch shipped out to Iraq in 2003, the 35-year-old Marine brought his camera and his artistic perspective to the war. Educated as a studio artist at Vassar College and trained as a soldier by the U.S. Marine Corps, Busch saw the conflict from a unique perspective.

As Iraqi insurgents threatened his safety, the desert heat, which regularly climbed above 120 degrees Fahrenheit, threatened his film, often ruining it in the canister or inside his camera. Busch commanded Delta Company of the 4<sup>th</sup> Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, initially securing a vast swath of eastern Iraq with only 150 troops and 25 light armored reconnaissance vehicles. He and his men slept in the desert and moved swiftly, seeking to convince friend and foe alike that the Marines were everywhere.

Photographing Iraqis offered a different sort of challenge. "People take on different relationships to their environment when they feel that they are being observed," said Busch, "and they discard a certain honesty when they are aware of a camera." Often he would tell village leaders that he needed photographs of something else—sewer pipes, for instance—while "accidentally" recording images of the people and architecture that caught his eye.

Busch's artistic quest involved capturing "the abstraction and representation of man, by man," he said. "I like a photograph to be visually compelling without requiring explanation of common experience before the viewer is told how to understand the image." What strikes Busch as profound, others might miss in a blink.



After 13 years of service, Busch left the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve in March 2004 to pursue his civilian career as an actor. His acting credits include his current role as Officer Colicchio on HBO's *The Wire*, as well as appearances on NBC's *The West Wing*, NBC's *Homicide*, *Life on the Street*, and several other television shows, along with film roles in *Rules of Engagement*, *Homicide: The Movie* (made for television), and *South of Hollywood*. Busch was recalled to active duty in 2005. When not in the field, he lives in College Park, Maryland, with his wife, Tracy, and their three-month-old daughter, Alexandra.

Busch's photographs of the war in Iraq, entitled, "The Art in War," have been exhibited nationwide. They went on display in UMUC's West Building lobby in January 2005 and will remain on display through April 10, 2005.



(Photo, facing page)

## Representing Man

Busch arrived near the Iranian border in late April 2003 and soon became the responsible officer and provisional mayor of a number of border towns. His work began in the ancient town of Jassan, the walled city that appears behind the boy in the photograph.

"The slow erosion of mud construction at that site over hundreds and hundreds of years raised the ground level so much that the town now sits on a hill composed entirely of the remains of the towns before it," Busch said. To protect the mud brick homes within the walls, palm-frond and mud-plaster roofs channel rainwater to the many spouts protruding from the outer walls. An oasis lies outside of Jassan, nourishing a stand of date palm trees, while a salt plain, completely barren of plants and homes, stretches 40 miles to the south.

"I met with the few remaining town officials and men of tribal importance in the region and toured each town with them as their guest," Busch said. "It was my one chance to make the impression that they would hold of us throughout our occupation. In order to avoid acting intrusively, I asked for their invitation to conduct assessments and inspections of clinics, schools, and public works facilities that were now my responsibility to restore, renovate, and secure."

Busch quickly snapped this photograph as the boy watched a gathering of Marines and Iraqis pass below him. The town, Busch said, seemed monumental in relation to the boy's size, even though the walls themselves were quite human in scale. "His world is composed entirely of dirt," Busch said. "The land and town are an equal dry orange tan and the human impression on this environment felt temporary and negligible despite a long history of occupation."

As an "ancient place near the cradle of civilization," Busch said, the town "could simply dissolve back into the desert and the picture of this little boy would serve as the only true evidence of the presence of man. I enjoy this photograph for that feeling."



(Right)

## The Disappeared

The man at the back of the photograph, to the left of center, presses a roll of holy cloth to his side while standing near the same gravesite where Busch snapped the photograph entitled "Gathered in Holy Cloth." Several other men hold up pictures of missing loved ones, hoping to recover their remains and bury them in accordance with Islamic law.

"They gathered the bones in the clothes of the dead and laid them in rows for families to examine," Busch said. "There were no forensic teams or police, just men with shovels—and us." Lime powder mixed in the dirt left most of the clothing well preserved, offering the families some help in identifying the remains.

"I took this photograph of men looking for the brother of the man on the right," he said. "They presented these pictures of the missing man in the clothes that he had been wearing when he had been taken away."

While the picture portrays the emotion of the men as they carry out their grim duties, it omitted what lay at their feet: rows of skeletons wrapped in the clothes they had worn on execution day. This was an intentional omission on Busch's part.

"It is more powerful to know that [the skeletons] are there without the distraction of seeing them," Busch said. "All photographs end at their edges, but I feel that there has to be an intelligence in the selection of composition that inspires viewers to imagine beyond what they see. I have always believed that a photograph is not worth taking if it cannot encourage wonder in a viewer without an explanation."

Busch was drawn by the way this photograph reunited the men in a single image. "It is a photograph of photographs, and abstractly I enjoy the dialogue that one human representation has appearing within another," he said. "This picture serves the same purpose as the image that this man displays, in that it is now evidence and a tangible record of memory."





(Left)

## Gathered in Holy Cloth

This photograph may shock some viewers. But Busch saw more than the macabre.

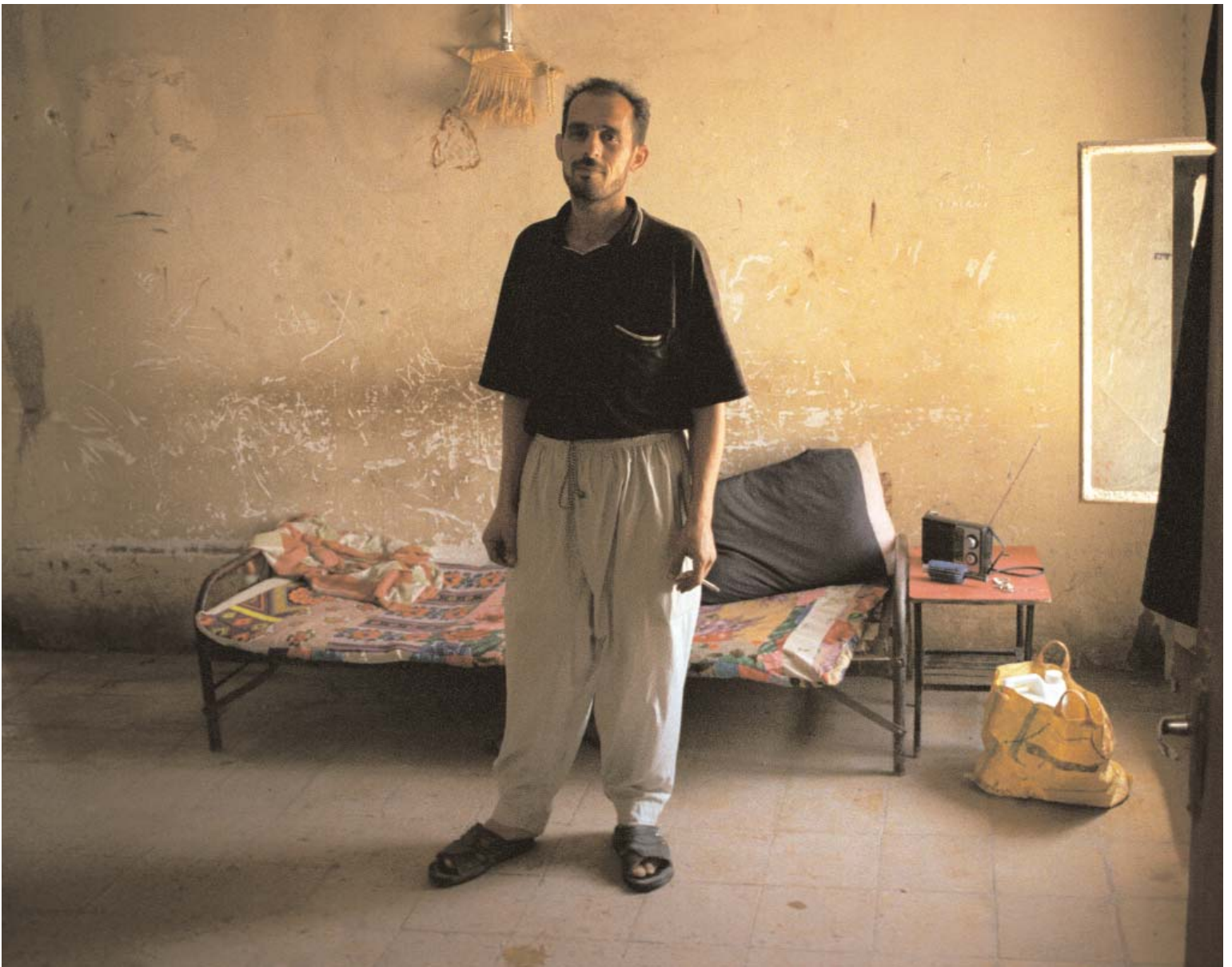
"In May 2003, near the town of Badrah, locals beckoned to us to follow them to a grave," he said. "They could have exhumed the grave without us, but there was still an underlying fear of retribution by Ba'athists that seemed to require our presence. It may also have been a simple desire for others to bear witness to what had happened there."

The gravesite was surrounded by a low, rectangular berm; it had been forbidden ground during Saddam Hussein's rule. "The people buried there had been executed in 1991 following the revolt against Saddam that the U.S. had encouraged during Desert Storm but had failed to completely support," Busch said. "Following the rapid U.S. withdrawal into Kuwait, Saddam identified and executed everyone associated with the revolt. [My troops and I] stood nearby as Iraqi men dug into the yellow-white lime powder in search of the remains of their relatives."

Busch spent hours traveling to a mosque and negotiating a price for the holy cloth that holds the bones. He watched family members collect the bones of their loved ones and place them in the cloth.

But peace is elusive even for the dead in Iraq. "Families hurried these bodies to Najaf to be interred in the ancient cemeteries that are now part of the battlefield," Busch said. "The story of these dead becomes more tragic once you imagine conflict following them to their final resting place."





(Above)

## Ice Man

This man ran a small ice factory near the Iranian border and was dubbed “Ice Man” by Busch’s Marines. He became an important part of Busch’s mission when the Marines took charge of restoring the function and security of the region’s infrastructure. To deter looting, Ice Man lived at the factory in this tiny room, furnished with a cot and a radio.

“We eventually restored fragile but adequate supplies of power and water,” said Busch, “and his plant was producing ice again when I took this picture during an inspection.”

Iraqis rely on ice to defy the 120-plus degree heat, using it to preserve food and maintain comfort. By late April 2003, power outages disabled pumping stations along the aqueduct from the distant Tigris River and much of the water left in the canals had evaporated, leaving small, stagnant pools.

“The water had stopped flowing to the peripheral towns outside of Al Kut, and crops and herds were beginning to fail in the harsh dry of the approaching summer,” Busch said. “With the senior Ba’ath Party civil servants abandoning their posts, there was no one to manage the support infrastructure, or—almost as important—to protect it. Pumps and power stations were looted, and both water and power became scarce.”

Busch’s responsibilities in the area ended when he received orders to move south of Baghdad, and Ukrainian units replaced the Marines. “We later heard a rumor that this man had been killed in a local dispute over the price of ice,” he said. “I feel a particular sadness about this photograph because it captures this man’s life at its best in the place where he died, and it may be the only lasting image of him. It gives me a feeling of futility when I consider that he died there in part because of our genuine efforts to improve his life.”



(Below)

## Iraqi Children Meet the Marines

Busch entered the town of Al Kut on a mission to negotiate with local merchants for the building supplies he needed to renovate Iraqi schools. In the middle of the market, curious children gathered around his Marines.

"It was 125 degrees, and I had just spent seven hours gathering supplies and renegotiating final prices as the dollar changed value throughout the day," he said. "As we loaded cans of paint, bags of plaster, and rolls of wire onto a truck, little children seeped out of alleys and crowds to meet us. This photograph captures the curiosity and hopeful innocence that makes children a worthy reason for positive change in any part of the world."

Busch attempted to catch a candid moment—and nearly succeeded. "I tried to take this picture unnoticed in order to avoid poses and a self-conscious group dynamic," he said. "One child noticed and [in the photograph] pretends to take a picture of me."

At the same time, Busch triggered the suspicion of some adolescents in the crowd. "They are nearing military age and are, no doubt, studying us with a much different curiosity than the younger children," he noted. "They are of an age likely to be lured into fighting us in Iraq today, and it is in their eyes."

At the heels of the girl on the right lies the open sewage typical of the back streets, and many children in town go barefoot. The boy on the right, shown grasping the pole, wears an Oakland Raiders shirt. Busch speculates that an aid organization delivered that piece of American culture.

"This was one of many blurred days in the hot market of Al Kut, but it was memorable for this moment caught in the expression of the boy with crutches looking up at a Marine," Bush said. "I try to capture people naturally relating to each other, but I enjoy the slight acknowledgement of my lens by a few in this image because it is not disruptive and shows the difference in concern and awareness in the older boys."

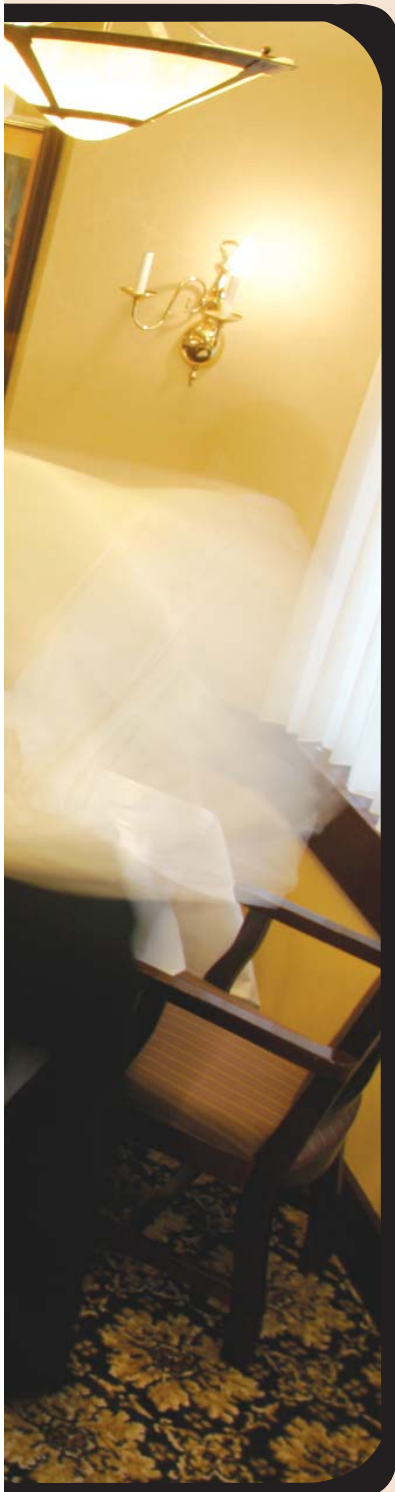




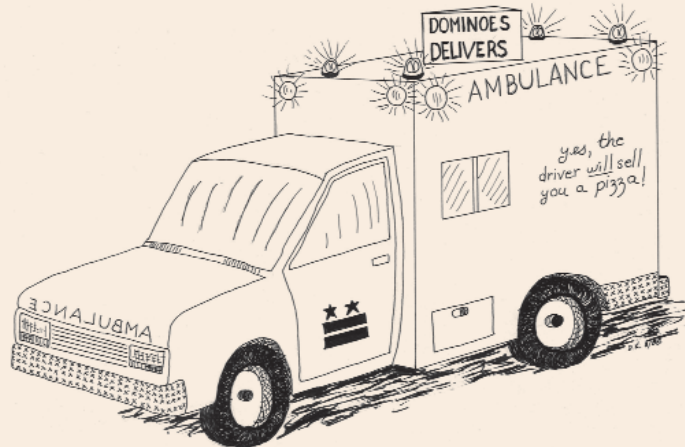
# THE CARTOONIST AND THE FOURTH ESTATE







KING'S VERY FIRST CARTOON POKED FUN AT WASHINGTON, D.C.'S, INFAMOUSLY UNRELIABLE AMBULANCE SERVICE; ANOTHER, SHOWING AN INTERNET PORN FILTER BLOCKING A USER FROM VIEWING THE MONICA LEWINSKY REPORT, BROUGHT \$400 IN A CHARITY AUCTION AT THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB.



WHEN YOU ABSOLUTELY HAVE TO BE THERE IN LESS THAN 30 MINUTES!

By Greg Rosenthal

**D**AVID KING CAME TO THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB IN 1990 WITH DREAMS OF BECOMING AN EDITORIAL CARTOONIST. AS HE EXPLAINED IT, "I HAVE A PRETTY GOOD WIT AND I CAN DRAW." HE'D BEEN WORKING AT CHADWICK'S, A WASHINGTON, D.C., RESTAURANT, WAITING TABLES WHILE WAITING FOR OPPORTUNITY TO KNOCK, BUT HE WAS READY TO MOVE ON.

"I had been at Chadwick's for awhile, getting itchy, when I found a job waiting tables at the press club," King said. "I figured if I had to wait tables while building my portfolio, it might as well be at the National Press Club, where I could meet people who could give me some exposure."

And meet people he has—although perhaps not in the capacity he expected. Armed with a degree in economics from UMUC, King has advanced quickly, now serving as the National Press Club's clubhouse manager, where he meets world leaders, celebrities, and authors on a daily basis.

"Just in September 2004, I saw [former Indiana University basketball coach] Bobby Knight, [Secretary of Defense] Donald Rumsfeld, [Secretary of Education] Rod Paige, [Secretary of the Treasury] John Snow, and [Secretary of Homeland Security] Tom Ridge," he said.

"In terms of meeting them or having a conversation, that's not my place," King added, modestly. "My role is to see them in and make sure their event goes smoothly." He is simply too busy to be star-struck.

In addition to running the National Press Club's formal dining room, The Fourth Estate, and its casual restaurant, The Reliable Source, King frequently coordinates events with the U.S. Secret Service to ensure the safety of high-profile guests. He has even doubled as club bouncer.

“When L. Paul Bremer [former administrator of Iraq’s Coalition Provisional Authority] was here in July 2003, someone got past us without press credentials and started yelling at him from the back of the room,” King said. “The man didn’t listen to me when I told him he was trespassing and was no longer welcome at the club. I had to give him a bear hug and carry him out of the room.” At 6 feet 4 inches and 180 pounds, King makes a tall and trim—but no less convincing—bouncer.

King also helps manage the club’s 10 conference rooms, which accommodate more than 200 events annually. All the rooms are equipped with robotically controlled cameras wired to transmit broadcast-quality signals anywhere in the world via satellite, fiber optics, or streaming Web video.

While King’s education has contributed to his success, his first few years in college would never have predicted it. Fresh out of high school, he enrolled at West Virginia’s Shepherd University (the Shepherd College) in 1976—and quickly ran into trouble.

But King still dreamed of becoming an editorial cartoonist, and from 1989 to 1993 he left college and his job at Merrill Lynch in order to devote more time to cartooning. His very first cartoon showed a Domino’s pizza delivery vehicle transporting hospital patients—a not-so-gentle jab at Washington, D.C.’s, infamous emergency-response system, which most certainly could *not* guarantee on-time “delivery.”

During that period, King continued to wait tables to pay the bills, but new responsibilities were looming. While working at Chadwick’s, King had met his wife-to-be, Anastasia. And change was afoot at the National Press Club. The board of governors threw out the old management team, brought in two new managers, and promoted King from waiter to manager of The Fourth Estate.

“Once I was promoted I got interested in pursuing my degree, combining my floor skills in food and beverage with my background in economics and accounting,” King said. He enrolled at

## THE UNLIKELY STORY OF A WOULD-BE EDITORIAL CARTOONIST WHO CAME TO RUB SHOULDERS WITH CELEBRITIES AND THE POLITICAL ELITE AT ONE OF WASHINGTON’S MOST FAMOUS HAVENS—THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB.

“I’d been raised in a conservative Christian home and had a pretty sheltered life,” he said. “I’d never gone to prom, never had a beer, and was completely unprepared for the experiences college offered. I lasted two years before flunking out.”

King soon atoned for that false start, though. He enrolled at Montgomery College, where he earned high marks for three semesters before transferring to the University of Maryland, College Park. There, he ran into trouble again, but for completely different reasons.

“I’m smart, but I was supporting myself and going to school at same time,” he said. “At College Park, I was taking daytime classes and I was working as a waiter in the evenings. When I started working two jobs, my grades went down.”

At the time, King was sharing a house with a UMUC economics graduate working for Merrill Lynch who helped King get a job as a branch office representative. “I worked there days, waited tables at night, and took all the classes I could,” he said.

UMUC in 1994. John Bloom, the club’s general manager, quickly recognized King’s commitment and discipline.

“Dave is one of the few people I know who tried to better himself through education and stuck with it,” Bloom said. “A lot of people come into my office all gung-ho about taking courses. But after a semester or two, [their enthusiasm] sort of fades away. Everyone has a reason for why they can’t do it. The people who face the same challenges but manage to get it done anyway are the people you admire a little bit more.”

King, along with Executive Chef Jim Swenson, began offering Bloom fresh ideas for attracting members to the restaurants—karaoke, live bands, and Wednesday night lobster dinners. “When you have two restaurants with a club this size, it’s hard to keep both busy all the time,” Bloom said.

The club had long hosted “book rap” events, where visiting authors discuss their books, and King had started wine appreciation dinners at The Fourth Estate. Gauging the popularity of both



**AS CLUBHOUSE MANAGER FOR THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB, DAVID KING MANAGES THE CLUB'S BANQUET AND KITCHEN OPERATIONS, OVERSEEING MORE THAN 2,000 BANQUET EVENTS AND 40,000 A LA CARTE COVERS EACH YEAR, A TOTAL OF \$7.5 MILLION OF CATERING AND A LA CARTE SALES.**



events, King and Swenson suggested to Bloom that the club marry the two events, and the club's regular "book rap/wine dinners" were born.

"We had [celebrity chefs and authors] Jacques Pepin and Marcus Samuelson visit," he said. "They'd be out promoting their newest books and they'd come in, the chef would choose five to eight dishes, The Fourth Estate manager [Stratton Davis] would put together glasses of wine for each course, and the famous chef would talk about the course and what was in it and why it tasted the way it did."

Swenson is unequivocal about the results. "We had to work a long time to drag people into the restaurants," he said. "The wine dinners, the dinner specials, changing the menus daily—it all worked."

Through it all, King continued to draw—albeit a bit less formally. One illustration that King drew for a press club flyer advertising that week's lobster dinner showed a maitre d' perplexed that no one was calling for reservations while, behind the podium, a lobster had snipped the phone line with its claw. Another, more politically topical cartoon—showing an Internet porn filter blocking a user from accessing the Monica Lewinsky report—sold for \$400 at a "Cartoons and Cocktails" auction that the press club hosted to raise money for charity.

It might not have happened quite as he expected, but in a way, David King's dreams have come true.

*King, who graduated from UMUC in 2000, currently lives in Washington, D.C.'s, Glover Park neighborhood with his wife, Anastasia—who now serves as creative director for the Peace Corps—and the couple's four-year-old daughter, Elise.*





# EDWARD DE LEON: ON A PATH TO DISCOVERY

*By Stefanie Johnson*

As director of product development for Discovery Education (a division of Discovery Communications, Inc.), Edward de Leon is responsible for acquiring and developing video content that ends up as educational programming on Discovery Channel and TLC—a hefty 60 hours of programming each year. In 2004, *Assignment Discovery*, a show de Leon helps produce, won a coveted Emmy Award for outstanding children's series.

But it was de Leon's work in UMUC's executive MBA program that helped him score what may have been his biggest coup. The executive MBA—which is tailored for students with significant professional experience—includes a final strategy project that requires students to develop comprehensive analyses and market-entry plans for two international markets, and de Leon made it work for him.

"I was fortunate to be able to incorporate some of the work that I was doing at Discovery into my final project," said de Leon. "Our organization has a North American [education] division, which has focused, for the most part, only on the United States. I decided to look at Canada and Puerto Rico and make a recommendation about how to utilize those markets."

With that in mind, De Leon led an academic "expedition" into Canada, where a look inside the Discovery Canada broadcast vaults unearthed the equivalent of programming gold—hundreds of hours of valuable but underused video footage.

central goal of enhancing education and broadening the minds of students across North America.

"Media has often been used carelessly in education. It is very easy to convince kids that they are learning something when they aren't," said de Leon. "It is very easy now to get confused as a student and to be misinformed and undereducated. The vast majority of teachers don't use videos because most videos are just not that good."

Recognizing that disparity, Discovery Communications, Inc., has made education a priority. The organization celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> birthday in April by creating a new division dedicated solely to educational programming—Discovery Education.

"This was a significant departure for Discovery," said de Leon. "We are not like other companies that create content that is incidentally educational. We have an entire group dedicated to creat-



Because Discovery Communications has only a 20 percent stake in Discovery Canada, the Canadian company has the right to use the Discovery name on broadcasts, but not to use the brand on products. That means that once a show airs, its legal usability expires.

"There are five or six years of programming going unused right now," said de Leon. "We can license all of that content, edit it, brand it, and make it available in both the United States and Canada. Really rich opportunities could be right under your nose, and you might never realize it without taking the time to look for them. If it hadn't been for the [executive MBA] strategy project, we might have missed this altogether."

In de Leon's hands, the newly discovered raw material just might win a second Emmy. But more importantly, it will further his

ing programming specifically for classroom use. We are the only prominent educational division within a major network."

In his role as director of product development, de Leon sifts through hundreds of hours of tape to craft programs that are a careful blend of education and entertainment.

"We focus on taking great stories—the very best of Discovery programming—and turning them into educational experiences," said de Leon. "I've seen videos that are simply onscreen renderings of a textbook. There is really no learning involved there. Video is a great storytelling media, and it has to have a narrative that is engaging."

De Leon's voice brightened as he began to describe a recently completed program about island ecosystems. With open enthusiasm, he outlined the storyboard.



"We just finished a whole week of programming on island ecosystems," he said. "The lead-off segment is on Charles Darwin and the Galapagos Islands, then students visit an island ecosystem in Southeast Asia, and finally there is a segment on an extinct species in Tasmania. It's really great! It covers geography, evolution, and adaptation, all in one program."

De Leon and Discovery Education are taking these programs to schools, asking teachers to give video resources another look. Not only is the division producing quality programming, it is revolutionizing the way in which programs are made available to classrooms. By developing a proprietary digital video-on-demand application, unitedstreaming—essentially TiVo for teachers—Discovery Education is able to offer a subscription to teachers that allows them access to an archive of more than 2,300 full-length core-curriculum videos chaptered into 23,000 clips that are available anytime.

effectiveness, the results indicated that students who viewed unitedstreaming content saw a 3–5 percent performance improvement in a variety of subject areas.

"From the very first day, our students were engaged by the high-quality content on unitedstreaming," said Whitaker. "We believe that this powerful tool supports standards-based instruction and will, therefore, result in greater academic achievement."

De Leon also looks for feedback from students, and said that his most rigorous critic is his 15-year-old son. "Fifty out of 60 hours of programming that we do each year targets teenagers—a much more complex group," said de Leon. "The purple bunnies and balloons that engaged them as little kids have to be replaced with more thoughtful, but equally engaging, programming." For de Leon, his work is an extension of a lifelong fascination with film.



"I like teachers because they are brutally honest," said De Leon. "If a video stinks, they will tell you. There is never any doubt where you stand."

Discovery Education constantly runs its programming past panels of teachers, but in truth, once the material is in the classroom and educators have had a chance to see it firsthand, feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Already, Discovery Education products are used in more than 90,000 schools across the United States.

"We get e-mails and talk to teachers at conferences all the time," said de Leon. "We submit all of our content to educational journals and educators for review, and they love the stuff that we do."

Jean Whitaker, principal of Olive Vista Middle School in Los Angeles, California, was deeply impressed with unitedstreaming content. When her school participated in a study of the material's

"I wanted to go on and get a PhD in film studies," de Leon recalled, "but then I got involved in editing books. It wasn't until I worked as an editor in the textbook industry that I really saw how video media could be used to educate. I sympathize with those kids who have trouble learning. The odds are really stacked against those who function in an environment in which they can't engage with the textbook."

"I have been in this industry for a long time," continued de Leon, who boasts more than 20 years of editing experience. "But I wanted to break out of the editorial niche and see what the other parts of an organization have to do with the overall business environment."

His search led him to UMUC's executive MBA program. You might say that it was the first step on a path to discovery.

# CLASS NOTES

## **Byron Winfield Brown '63**

Greenville, Ohio, was called to active duty as a private in the Ohio National Guard on October 19, 1940. Twenty-three years and 12 promotions later, he retired; that same year, he earned his degree from UMUC. In 1977 he retired two more times, from the Virginia Department of Health and from a position with the city of Alexandria, Virginia. In 1991, he relocated to his hometown in Darke County, Ohio, and resumed his community involvement; in 1994, he became only the second person from the county in 15 years to be inducted into the Ohio Senior Citizen Hall of Fame. He spent much of his retirement researching and assembling his family's history, which was published in 1999 as a 10-volume set spanning more than a dozen generations. He wrote, "Now, if I retire a fourth time, I'll need a secretary!"

## **Robert S. Drake '80**

Camp Stanley, South Korea, earned his master's degree in management from Webster University in 1983 and his PhD in curriculum and instruction from Kansas State University in 2002. He was recently assigned to Camp Stanley, in South Korea, as an education services specialist with the Department of the Army Civilian at the Army Education Center. Prior to that, he served for nine years in the same capacity with the 89<sup>th</sup> Regional Readiness Command, Army Reserve, in Wichita, Kansas. He retired from the U.S. Air Force as an education and training officer with the rank of captain in 1990 after more than 21 years of service with both the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Army. In the Army, he spent 21 months in South Vietnam as an enlisted cook. He has been married to Sue T. Drake—formerly Ngo T. Ngoc—for 34 years. They have three children—John, 32, James, 30, and Angela, 20.

## **Robert Mantz '80**

Pennsylvania Furnace, Pennsylvania, retired from his position at AT&T in 2000 after 31 years of service. He wrote, "My experience at UMUC helped me achieve a varied and satisfying career. Currently, I am launching a new business from my home and will again rely on the many skills that UMUC gave me."

## **Michael Phillips '80**

Alexandria, Virginia, wrote, "During my 20 years in the U.S. Air Force, I took advantage of the educational opportunities afforded me at UMUC. After retiring, I was appointed to first-rate management positions in the government and aerospace industries, culminating with my appointment to an academic faculty research position at the Georgia Institute of Technology, a position I held for seven years. We are in the 21<sup>st</sup> century with the world at our doorsteps and it is increasingly important to have international hands-on experience. Where else could you study the language and culture of a foreign country—while living there—and immediately apply what you learned? UMUC provided that opportunity and more; it has one of the finest programs ever created to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century."

## **Joseph S. Spence Sr. '80**

Brookfield, Wisconsin, accepted a position teaching bankruptcy and family law classes in the paralegal program at Bryant and Stratton College. He has been inducted into the National Vocational-Technical Honor Society and Phi Theta Kappa Society—International Scholastic Order.

## **Joseph F. Czyzyk '81**

Roselle, Illinois, retired from the U.S. Army in 1984 and served as a finance management specialist with the Department of Defense for seven years and as a teacher for 10 years before accepting his current position as chair of the Sister Cities Commission of Roselle, Illinois, working with foreign exchange students from Poland. He also serves as vice president of the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association.

## **Lawrence Steinfeldt '83**

Laurel, Maryland, retired from the federal government after 32 years of combined military and civilian service. He recently served as jury foreman for a federal court case, and credited his UMUC education with helping him fulfill those duties. He wrote, "The courses I took from UMUC really helped me develop writing, speaking, and management skills that came in very handy with various job assignments."

## **Gates Weaver '85**

Moselle, Mississippi, married Candace Sumner on July 17, 2004. He also received a Vision of Excellence Award from his employer, American Medical Response, of Jackson, Mississippi, in 2004.

## **Frank N. Roth '87**

Camden, Delaware, wrote, "I recently retired from the U.S. Air Force after 23 years of service and am now starting my second career as a civilian!"

## **Lori E. Howley '90**

Sarasota, Florida, worked for the federal government until 1994, when she traveled to Moscow for two years on a grant from the U.S. Department of State. She currently works as an independent contractor developing Internet e-commerce sites.

## **John Veal '94**

Lawton, Oklahoma, earned an MBA from Oklahoma City University in 1996. He wrote, "UMUC's staff was very supportive and helpful in my quest for my undergraduate degree. Their help made my graduation possible."

## **Dennis Pepe '95 & '98**

Ketchikan, Alaska, left Nevada after one year working with the U.S. Navy bombing range and Top Gun Squadron. He now serves as assistant professor of marine technology and operations with the University of Alaska—Southeast in Ketchikan, near the Canadian border. He wrote, "The Navy and university positions are a far cry from international management, but are interesting and fun. I have a 45-foot training vessel to captain at the university. This semester involves developing new programs, substitute teaching, and planning to administer my own special marine certification program next semester. I worked in Kodiak, Alaska, for one year in 1979, so I am back on the last frontier again. If you have never been to this state, you owe it to yourself to visit. You will learn the true meaning of the words *pristine* and *majestic*. Come visit me and bring warm clothes!" Send him e-mail at [dennis.pepe@uas.alaska.edu](mailto:dennis.pepe@uas.alaska.edu).



# CLASS NOTES

## **Valencia Rutledge '95, '01, & '03**

Oxon Hill, Maryland, resigned her position with the Department of the Navy in 1997 to focus her efforts on strengthening troubled communities. She currently serves as president and CEO of You-Nique Services, Inc., a non-profit organization that she founded to provide basic life-skills coaching, GED tutoring, and job training and placement to the needy across the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. Her efforts have been highlighted on local news stations and she recently received a letter of commendation from Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), acknowledging her efforts to help at-risk youth.

## **Christopher Coker '96**

Burtonsville, Maryland, wrote, "My career history is in legal contracts in the private sector, and I also have an exciting part-time job with a former colleague as a business manager for his engineering company in Northern Virginia. UMUC was an excellent experience, not only in terms of educational value, but in terms of ongoing friendships with instructors and students. I believe that earning my BS through UMUC was one of the greatest personal achievements—and experiences—of my life."

## **Bryon Grosvalet '96**

Waldorf, Maryland, retired from active duty in January 2003 after serving for 23 years in the U.S. Air Force and Air National Guard. In 2000 he earned a master's degree in information and telecommunications management from Johns Hopkins University. He has three children and currently lives in southern Maryland.

## **Miriam Wheatley '96**

Laytonsville, Maryland, wrote, "Only seven years after graduating from UMUC and entering the professional world at 69 years of age, I am retiring."

## **Martha DeLaine '97**

Bowie, Maryland, left a successful career with Verizon in 2002 to begin a full-time career in real estate, serving Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. She wrote, "While at UMUC, I took two basic real estate courses

and earned my Maryland real estate license in 1997. UMUC Professor Barry Butts was my broker until 2002. Since that time I have sold more than \$15 million in real estate. Thanks, UMUC and Professor Butts!"

## **Norman M. Greene '97**

Takoma Park, Maryland, wrote, "My UMUC education allowed me to better myself in my beloved job as a youth counselor and increase my skills as an artist."

## **Ibrahim Koroma '97**

South Riding, Virginia, earned a master's degree in finance from UMUC and currently works as a finance manager for a thriving healthcare organization. He wrote, "UMUC helped me achieve my goal of becoming a finance manager. The knowledge I acquired during my years at UMUC—from professors who already had hands-on experience in the field of finance—proved to be invaluable at my current position."

## **Craig Tabb '97**

O'Fallon, Illinois, is currently assigned to the Air Force Communications Agency at Scott Air Force Base, conducting technical and policy evaluations to determine a supportable and acceptable information system. Earlier, he served at Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii, helping to establish the 56<sup>th</sup> Information Warfare Flight. From 1998 to 2000, he served at Air Force headquarters in the Pentagon, managing information systems, and before that, in the Air Force Pentagon Communication Agency, insuring network security.

## **Fern Duncan '98**

Germantown, Maryland, earned a certificate in paralegal studies while pursuing her bachelor's degree at UMUC. She works for the U.S. Department of State and wrote, "Although I have never really worked in the legal field, the knowledge I obtained applies to all aspects of my life, both professional and personal."

## **Terry Leary '98**

Woodbine, Maryland, wrote, "UMUC has an excellent program for working adults. I was able to work full-time while finishing my

degree. Now I'm taking graduate courses online; it is very convenient when balancing all my commitments."

## **Deborah Dorothy Grenier '98**

Laurel, Maryland, completed bank compliance graduate school, a master's program in information technology and systems management, and MCSE certification. Her son, Matthew, is a student in the University of Maryland, College Park, engineering program, and her daughter is completing high school and looking at colleges. Grenier wrote, "Now it's their turn!"

## **Janet Brugger '00**

Beaumont, Texas, wrote, "I graduated in 2000 and am currently working on my graduate studies through UMUC. Without the online courses, I would not have been able to complete my undergraduate degree or further my education."

## **Stephen Fisher '01**

Rockville, Maryland, is currently in the third year of a four-year term as an elected member of the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee representing District 17, where he serves as the assistant treasurer. He also works part time for attorney Michael R. Gordon, a member of the Maryland House of Delegates. Fisher serves or has served on a number of local boards and committees, and from 1996 to 1999 served on UMUC's alumni board of directors.

## **Janine M. Kraus '01**

Justin, Texas, earned her master's degree in higher education and currently serves as the director of business operations for the University of North Texas alumni association.

## **Anthony Brock '02**

Belgium, wrote, "I am a career naval intelligence officer who owes quite a bit to UMUC. In fact, my first college experience was a basic Italian class [that I took] while stationed on the island of Sardinia, Italy! I've now completed my MBA through UMUC and hope to start teaching undergraduate business classes here in Belgium. UMUC gave me the opportunity

# CLASS NOTES

to succeed. Thank you! Any alumni coming to Belgium, please drop me an e-mail at [tonybrock24@hotmail.com](mailto:tonybrock24@hotmail.com)."

## **Monica Cobbs '02**

Capitol Heights, Maryland, wrote, "I came to UMUC because I wanted to take advantage of the online programs. My GPA improved immediately as I was able to study on my own and learn at my own pace. I received my Bachelor of Science degree and am happily pursuing my Master of Science degree at UMUC as well. I have attended traditional classroom courses and I prefer online. UMUC has helped me become a better person by teaching me to be organized, meet deadlines, and be responsible for my own success. Thanks, UMUC!"

## **Rhonda C. Fleming '02**

Silver Hill, Maryland, wrote, "I am glad to be an alumna of UMUC. This university was one of the best things that happened in my life and I will always be a part of it."

## **Daisey Fryer '02**

Baltimore, Maryland, served in the U.S. Army and then worked for the Department of the Army as a civilian from 1986 to 2001. She currently works as a defense contractor in the field of financial management and accounting. She wrote, "During my time in the military and as a civilian, I accumulated numerous college credits, but in no particular field. UMUC helped me by applying those credits to various areas of management, allowing me to earn a degree in management studies while only having to complete the remaining credits with UMUC. My educational goals include earning a master's degree in accounting and financial management from UMUC's Graduate School of Management and Technology."

## **Lisa Ann Hedges '02**

Port St. Lucie, Florida, in February 2004 was appointed dean of academic affairs of Keiser College, Port St. Lucie campus.

## **Rebecca Johnson '02**

Salem, Wisconsin, completed her studies in psychology while overseas, earning a 4.0 GPA and winning the John S. Toll Jr. award along with induction into Phi Kappa Phi. She wrote, "I believe UMUC's flexibility helped bring an excellent college to me. WebTycho is an excellent way to complete courses that would not ordinarily be available to students in small, overseas locations. I am proud to be a graduate of UMUC."

## **Michelle Le '02**

Olney, Maryland, wrote, "Without my UMUC education, I wouldn't be where I am today. Thanks so much!"

## **Aimee Shope '02**

Orlando, Florida, is pursuing a master's degree in information systems management from Florida Institute of Technology.

## **Ronald Thompson '02**

West River, Maryland, wrote, "Receiving my degree from UMUC opened many doors for me throughout my career. Thank you, UMUC!"

## **Barry Wile '02**

Montclair, Virginia, wrote, "As a young Marine in Okinawa, UMUC helped me achieve my goal of graduating from college before my enlistment was up. Since then, I have earned my Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Oklahoma and am now pursuing my PhD from Northcentral University. Still, the one place on my wall that will get the most attention is the double frame that holds my AA and BA diplomas, which remind me of where I came from. I am the first member of my family to graduate from college with a bachelor's degree, let alone a master's. I would not be where I am today without UMUC."

## **Robert Cobbs '03**

Woodbridge, Virginia, wrote, "UMUC allowed me to pursue my education in accounting at a time when doing so would otherwise have been impossible. The knowledge of the professors and efficiency of the technology used in the online classes was superb. Thanks, UMUC!"

## **Brenda Compton-Turner '03**

Fort Washington, Maryland, has more than 20 years of experience as an educator. The author of a religious education book entitled, *Tithing—Need and Greed*, she also serves as an adjunct professor at the University of Phoenix's Alexandria campus and is currently enrolled in the doctorate program in higher education leadership at Nova Southeastern University's McLean campus. She wrote, "People may not remember exactly what you did or said, but they will always remember how you made them feel. I shall always remember how wonderful I felt the day I received my diploma from UMUC and the wonderful letter I received congratulating me on my achievement."

## **Jennifer Dillard '03**

Stillwater, Oklahoma, wrote, "UMUC helped me achieve my educational goals by allowing me to work full-time while studying online full-time. Due to a hectic work schedule, it would have been nearly impossible for me to attend traditional classes to earn my degree."

## **Dale Goode '03**

Bowie, Maryland, has worked in the information technology field for more than 12 years and is currently pursuing a master's degree from UMUC in information systems management. He works as an IT specialist for the Federal Bureau of Prisons, coaches AAU youth basketball, and is active in Bowie's Boys and Girls Club. He enjoys spending time with his wife, Stephanie, and the couple's four boys, Devin, Derek, Daren, and Drew.

## **Anthony L. Hanniford '03**

Gaithersburg, Maryland, works as a respiratory therapist in the Prince George's Hospital Center in Cheverly, Maryland.

## **Heidi Kelley '03**

Bishopville, Maryland, recently accepted a position as Delmarva sales manager for a medical supply company in Berlin, Maryland.



# CLASS NOTES

## **Cindy Kelson '03**

Brooklyn, New York, wrote, "I truly enjoyed my entire experience as a student of UMUC, first in Germany, then Saudi Arabia, and also stateside. I received quality instruction at all times and was privileged to interact with students of various cultures and backgrounds. I am definitely proud to be an alumna of UMUC."

## **Marcus Taylor '03**

Huntsville, Alabama, wrote, "UMUC is a tremendous academic institution. The real-life knowledge I received has paid off in a number of areas. The faculty is top notch."

## **Julie S. Tibbitt '03**

Silver Spring, Maryland, married Shane Feldman in August 2003.

## **Carol Walton '03**

Fort Huachuca, Arizona, started a military career after graduating from high school. She wrote, "UMUC helped me earn my associate's degree and inspired me to continue with my studies for my bachelor's. Now that I am nearly finished with my military career, I hope to use my UMUC degree to transition into the civilian world."

## **Katie Barker '04**

Severn, Maryland, wrote, "UMUC's endless options for taking classes allowed me to complete 22 credits in my last semester while working full-time and raising five children—including twin infants! I developed valuable skills that I have used continuously since graduation. I am now in the process of using those skills to revamp a business that my husband and I own."

## **Antoinette Braxton '04**

Huntingtown, Maryland, wrote, "Although I have years of experience in management, I had never completed my degree. UMUC gave me the opportunity to do so while working full-time."

## **Brenda Brown-Paul '04**

Forestville, Maryland, wrote, "The second time around can be just as good! I am a former UMUC student who dropped out after nine credits, 11 years before graduating with an

MBA. Attending UMUC and getting through the program successfully means a great deal to me. Beyond the sense of accomplishment, I have met some great professionals who have enhanced my day-to-day work effort just by completing their weekly class postings. Yes, there were some shortcomings, but overall—widely overall—this was a great experience and I have already recommended it to others."

## **Angela Chock '04**

Waldorf, Maryland, wrote, "Many thanks to UMUC's faculty, staff, students, and my family for helping me achieve my dream of a high-quality college education. If I had to do this all over again, I would still have chosen UMUC. After graduating in 2004 with my Bachelor of Science in information systems management, I know that I have achieved every single educational goal found in UMUC's mission statement. Congratulations to all my classmates of 2004."

## **James T. Doucet '04**

College Park, Maryland, earned his undergraduate degree in psychology and wrote, "My experience at UMUC broadened my knowledge in the field of psychology and addictions, and my experience gave me the confidence to get the job done and earn my degree."

## **Steven Hadedox '04**

Glen Burnie, Maryland, earned his bachelor's degree and a certificate in paralegal studies from UMUC and is currently pursuing a master's degree in information technology. After that, he hopes to attend law school, where he plans to specialize in intellectual property.

## **Lisajoy Marinello '04**

Colonia, New Jersey, serves as an adjunct professor in computer science and information systems management at UMUC, at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Madison, New Jersey, and at Kean University in Union, New Jersey. She spent the past six years working for the Microsoft Corporation, focusing primarily on e-commerce development and emerging Internet technologies.

## **Joseph P. Nole Jr. '04**

Nutley, New Jersey, in the fall of 2004 celebrated the birth of his son, Alec Joseph Nole.

## **Sarah Rice '04**

California, Maryland, earned her degree in accounting and now serves as a financial analyst with the Integic Corporation in Lexington Park, Maryland.

## **LaKisha Smith '04**

Landover, Maryland, wrote, "UMUC helped me achieve both my professional and personal goals and helped me to become the first person in my family to graduate from a four-year college. Thanks a million, UMUC!"

## **Tara L. Wells '04**

Bowie, Maryland, will begin studying for her Master of Arts in Teaching from Bowie State University in the spring of 2005.

## **Clarence Guess '05**

Abingdon, Maryland, wrote, "Working full-time and going to school is exhausting, but UMUC provides a positive solution for reaching your goals. UMUC helped me by transferring life learning experiences into college credit that allowed me to graduate with a bachelor's degree in information systems management. I had an extensive background in computer science and telecommunications that I gained while in the U.S. Army, and the knowledge and skills that I obtained transferred into credits toward my degree. Thanks to a great university and an excellent faculty."

## **Wendy Tarleton '05**

Lancaster, California, had her military career cut short by health-related issues. She is completing her studies at UMUC with the help of the Department of Veterans Affairs. She wrote, "I am getting really excited. I have learned so much during my studies and appreciate the work and dedication of the staff at UMUC. I miss the classroom, but I am grateful to be able to complete my final year online. Thank you, UMUC, for the opportunity to better myself through education."

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- Use the alumni discount at UMUC's virtual bookstore when visiting [www.bkstore.com/umuc](http://www.bkstore.com/umuc).
- Access career services such as CareerQuest and MonsterTrak. These are free, online career services for job searches and employer matches.
- Receive special invitations to UMUC-sponsored events.
- Purchase a UMUC class ring from Herff-Jones College Division. A portion of each sale supports UMUC scholarships.
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For more details on membership benefits, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations by phone at 240-684-5125 or by e-mail at [info@umucalumni.org](mailto:info@umucalumni.org).

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